Flower market in Okhla

†628. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the the Government of NCT of Delhi has decided to set up an international level flower market in Okhla;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said land belongs to Municipal Corporation of Delhi or to Delhi Development Authority; and

(d) the category of flower merchants to whom shops would be allotted, alongwith the cost of shops and the criterion under which the said shops would be allotted to flower merchants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that a local floriculture market is being developed at Okhla.

(c) The land for the market has been allotted by Delhi Development Authority.

(d) Distribution of shops to flower seller in this market has not been decided by the Government.

Improving floriculture

629. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the floriculture industry in the country is saddled with a debt burden of over Rs. 100 crore and needs Government incentives to gear itself for global competition, by improving productivity and cutting cost; and

(b) if so, the measures taken and incentives extended for making floriculture a viable industry which could face competition from China and African Countries in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Floriculture units established to export

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

flowers particularly roses have, become sick. The Government of India is aware of their problems and has, therefore, initiated measures for their rehabilitation and to meet international competition. The measures include working out a financial package for sick units, setting up of flower marketing centres in Europe, auction Centres at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida; cold storage and cargo handling facilities at Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore, Trivendrum, Chennai and Hyderabad Airports. Also walk-in-type cold storage facilities have been set up at Guwahati, Agartala and Kolkata.

Funds for Watershed Development Fund in A.P.

630. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 under the Watershed Development Fund;

(b) the districts of Andhra Pradesh covered by this scheme;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Union Government for more funds to cover more districts;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the achievements of Andhra Pradesh Government in implementation of watershed programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Presently an amount of Rs. 20 crores has been earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001 by the Central Steering Committee of Watershed Development Fund and no amount for the year 2001-2002. This amount will be utilized over a period of 4-5 years.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has selected the following districts;

(i) Chittoor (ii) Medak (iii) Warangal (iv) Rangareddy (v) Srikakulam and (vi) Karimnagar

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Programmes and activities undertaken with the Watershed